

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, and 6-9 without prejudice, and amend claim 10.

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A pneumatic tire where a plurality of longitudinal grooves extending in a tire circumferential direction and a plurality of lateral grooves extending in a tire widthwise direction are provided in a tread portion, a plurality of blocks are defined by these longitudinal and lateral grooves, and a plurality of sipes extending in the tire widthwise direction are provided to each of the blocks,

wherein, with regard to each of the sipes,

a zigzag shape with an amplitude in the tire circumferential direction is formed on a tread surface,

bent portions ranging in the tire widthwise direction while bent in the tire circumferential direction are formed inside the block at at least two positions in the tire radial direction, and

a zigzag shape with an amplitude in the tire radial direction is formed in each of the bent portions, and

wherein, while the amplitude of the sipe in the tire circumferential direction is set constant, a tilt angle of the sipe in the tire circumferential direction to a normal-line direction of the tread surface is set smaller at a portion closer to the bottom of the sipe than

that in a portion closer to the tread surface, and the amplitude of the bent portions in the tire radial direction is set larger at a portion closer to the bottom of the sipe than that in a portion closer to the tread surface.

4. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 3, wherein tilt angles of the sipe in the tire circumferential direction to the normal-line direction of the tread surface are not smaller than 30 degrees, but not larger than 45 degrees in the portion closest to the tread surface, and not smaller than 15 degrees, but smaller than 30 degrees in the portion closest to the sipe bottom, respectively.

5. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to any one of claims 3 and 4, wherein, the amplitude of the bent portions in the tire radial direction is set not less than 0.5 mm in the portion closest to the tread surface, and is set not more than 3.5 mm in the portion closest to the sipe bottom.

6-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 9~~claim 3, wherein, on condition that the pneumatic tire is provided on a superficial portion of the block with a plurality of shallow grooves, whose depth is in a range of 0.1 to 1.0 mm, and which are shallower than the sipes, a vertical portion extending on a

normal-line to the tread surface is provided to the sipe in a section where the sipe joins to the tread surface.

11. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 10, wherein a height of the vertical portion of the sipe is set not less than the depth of the shallow groove.